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THE LOST PRINCE

A TIBETAN TALE



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 297, November 7, 1983



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Chitra Katha
make sure it is



The Lost Prince

Buddhism took root in Tibet between the 7th and 10th centuries.

By the 14th century the sacred books of the Buddhists in Pali and Sanskrit had been rendered into the Tibetan language. Some of the Sanskrit texts lost in India, the country of their origin, are today known to us only from their Tibetan translations. This Chitra Katha is based on a story from one such translation.

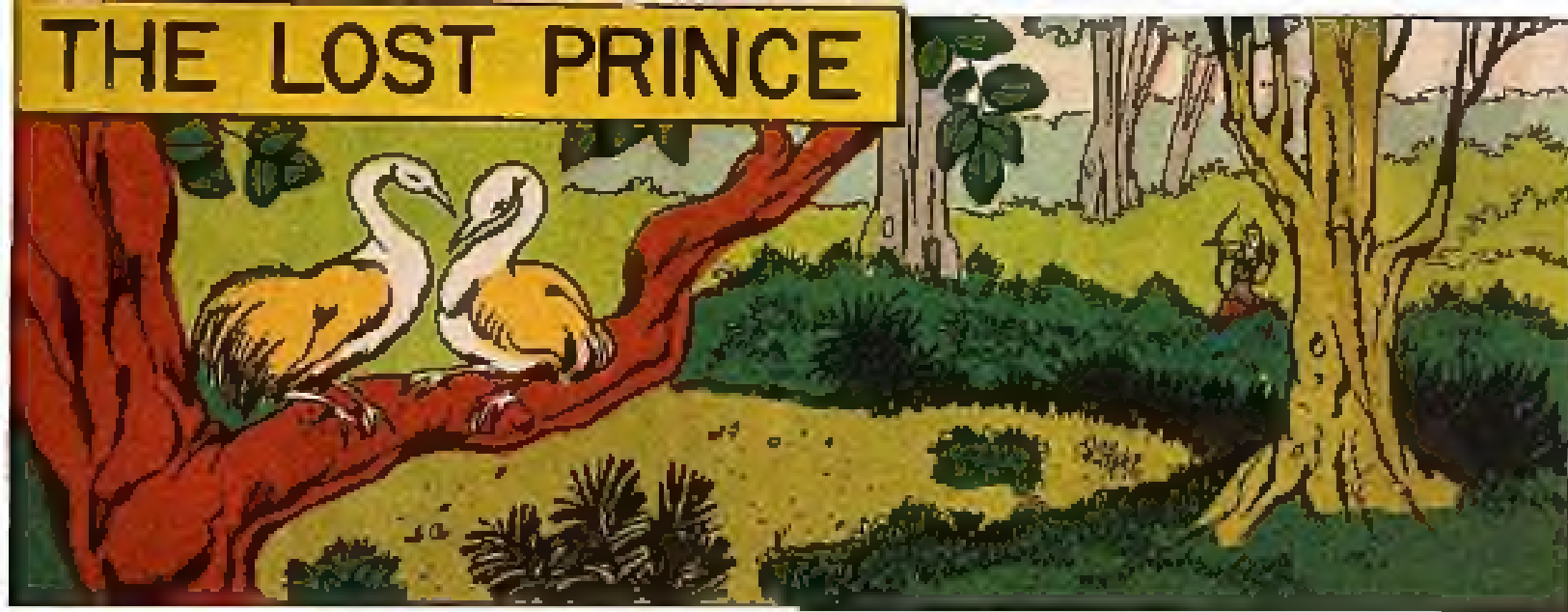
Today Tibetan is spoken in Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal and in parts of India, including Sikkim.

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THE LOST PRINCE





KSHEMANKARA, THE ELDEST PRINCE OF THE LAND, SMILED AT HIS BROTHER.



THE TWO BROTHERS LEFT FOR THE PALACE.





I LEARNT ARCHERY
TO PROTECT, NOT
TO KILL.



WELL, YOU ARE
KSHEMANKARA —
THE GOOD PRINCE.
I WAS BORN
THE VILLAIN.



WHY ELSE WOULD
OUR PARENTS HAVE
NAMED ME
PAPANKARA?

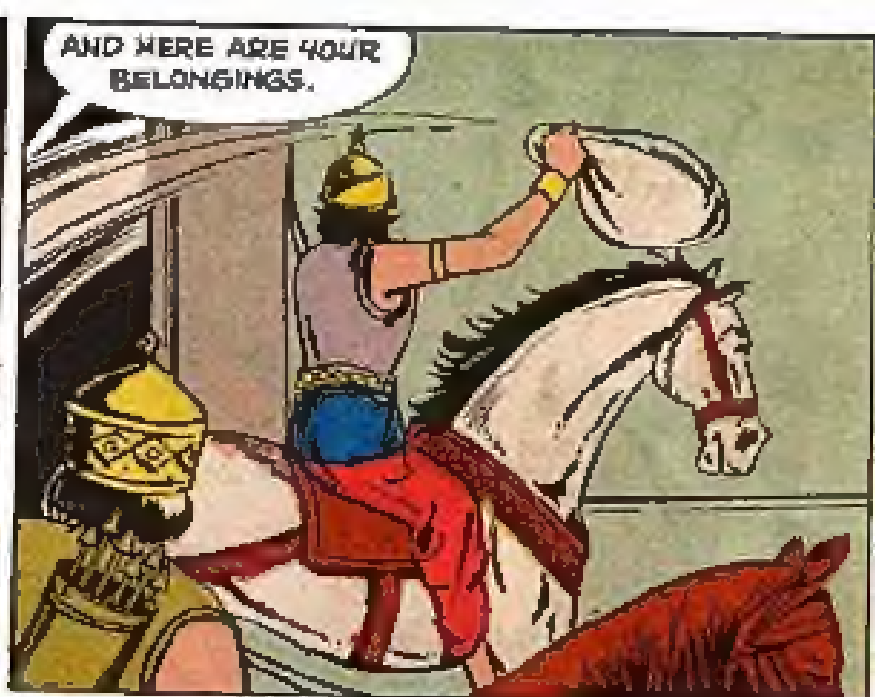


DON'T BE CHILDISH,
PAPAN. A MAN'S
DEEDS MAKE HIM
WHAT HE IS, NOT
HIS NAME.

JUST THEN —



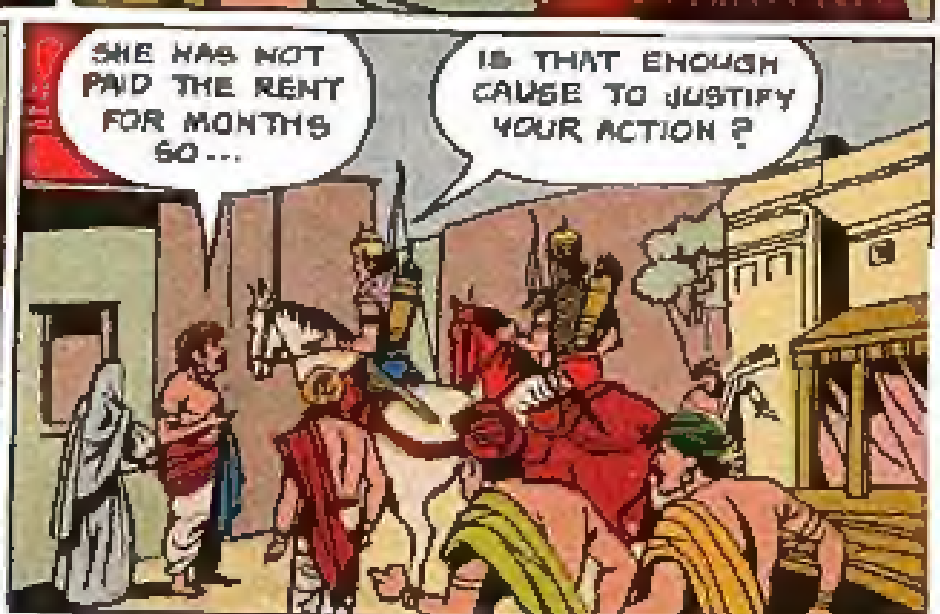
OUT YOU GO!



AND HERE ARE YOUR BELONGINGS.



PRINCE KSHEMANKARA!



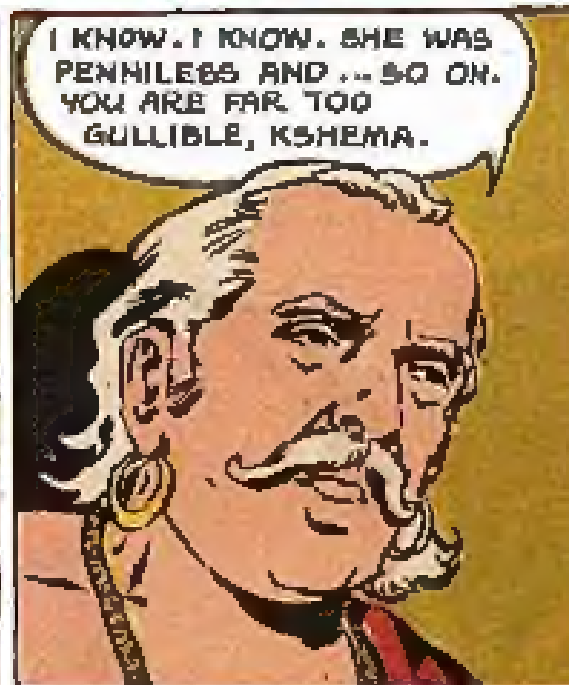
SHE HAS NOT PAID THE RENT FOR MONTHS SO...

IS THAT ENOUGH CAUSE TO JUSTIFY YOUR ACTION?



PARDON ME, PRINCE.

HE IS NOT TO BE BLAMED, SIR. MY HUSBAND IS DEAD. I HAVE NO ONE TO SUPPORT ME.



IF YOU ASK ME,
HE'S NOT GULLIBLE
BUT SHREWD, FATHER,
VERY SHREWD.

SHREWD?

YEB. HE'S NOT
GIVING AWAY
WEALTH. HE'S
ONLY INVESTING
IT... TO EARN
PRAISE.

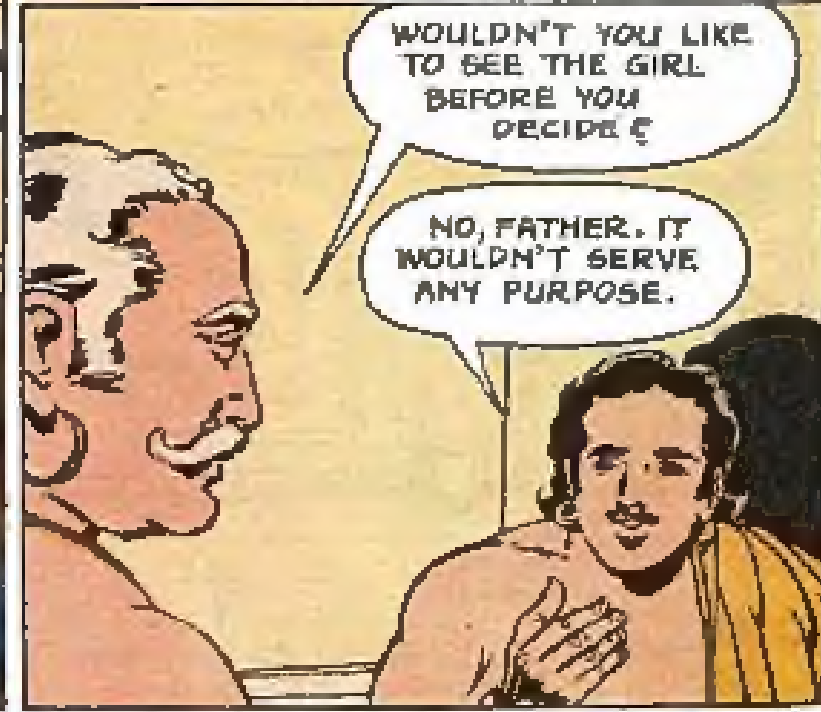
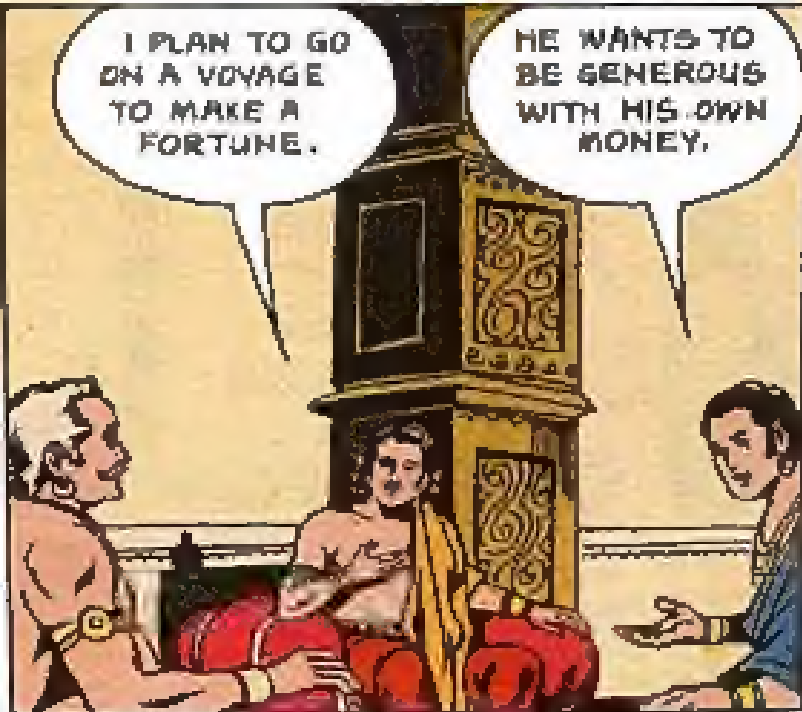
ARE YOU SUGGEST-
ING THAT KSHEMA
PRETENDS TO BE
GENEROUS?

I AM SORRY,
FATHER.
I DIDN'T
MEAN THAT.

KSHEMA,
A PROPOSAL
HAS COME
FOR YOU.

A KING, OUR NEIGHBOUR,
HAS OFFERED HIS
DAUGHTER'S HAND IN
MARRIAGE TO YOU.

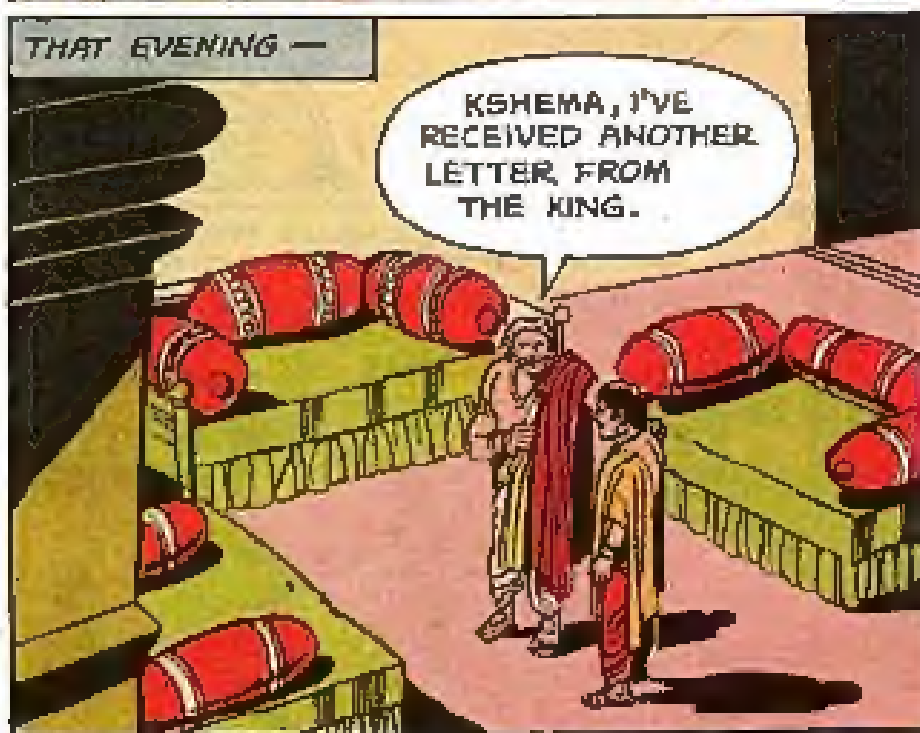
TELL HIM I DON'T
INTEND TO MARRY
JUST YET,
FATHER.



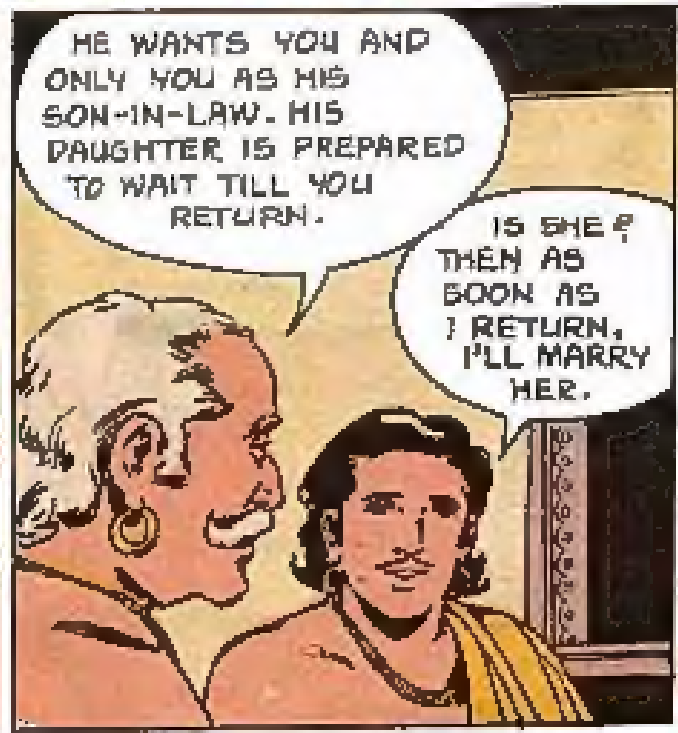


WILL YOU
TAKE ME TOO,
KSHEMA?

OF COURSE, I WILL.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE
YOU WITH ME,
PAPAN.



KSHEMA, I'VE
RECEIVED ANOTHER
LETTER FROM
THE KING.



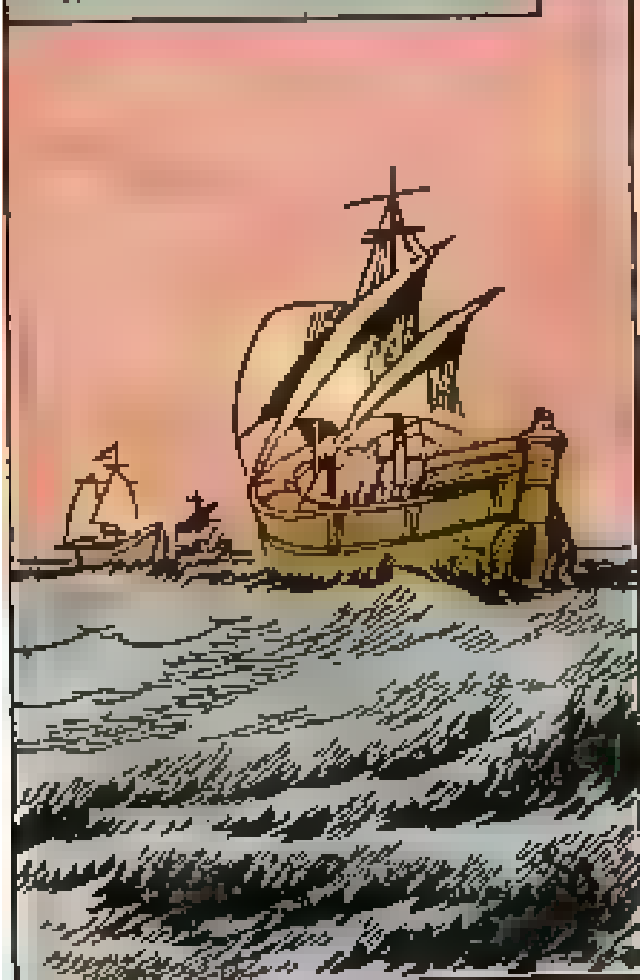
HE WANTS YOU AND
ONLY YOU AS HIS
SON-IN-LAW. HIS
DAUGHTER IS PREPARED
TO WAIT TILL YOU
RETURN.

IS SHE?
THEN AS
SOON AS
I RETURN,
I'LL MARRY
HER.



ON THE APPOINTED DAY KSHEMANKARA SET OUT
ON HIS VOYAGE...

...WHICH TOOK HIM TO...



...SEVERAL LANDS...



...WHERE HE AND HIS MEN MADE A FORTUNE.

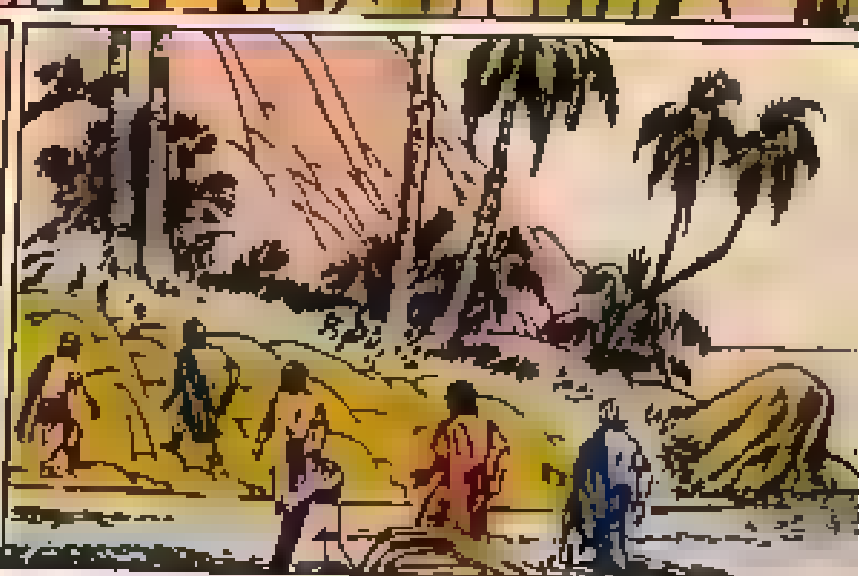
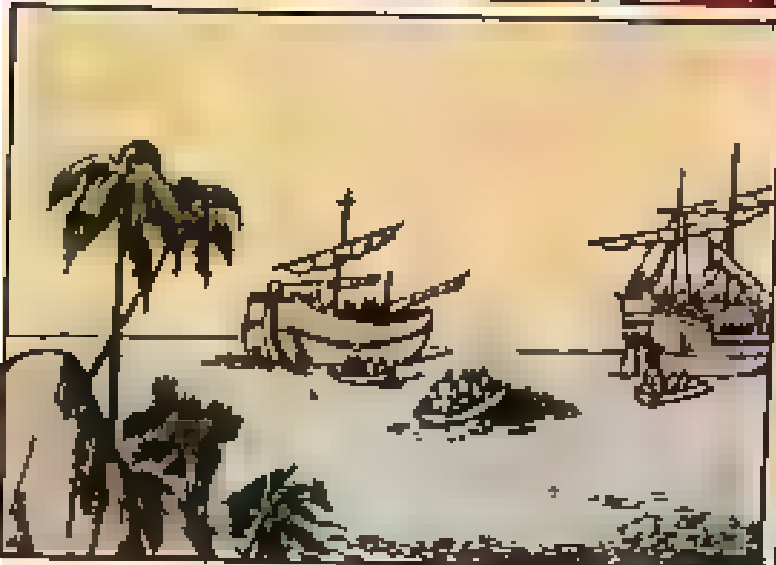


ONE DAY —



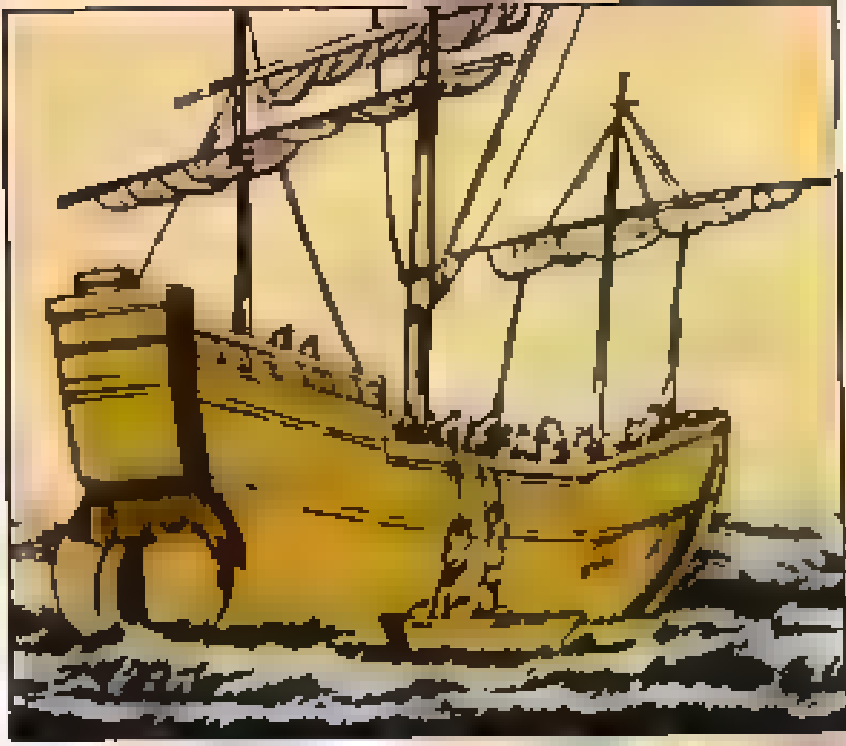
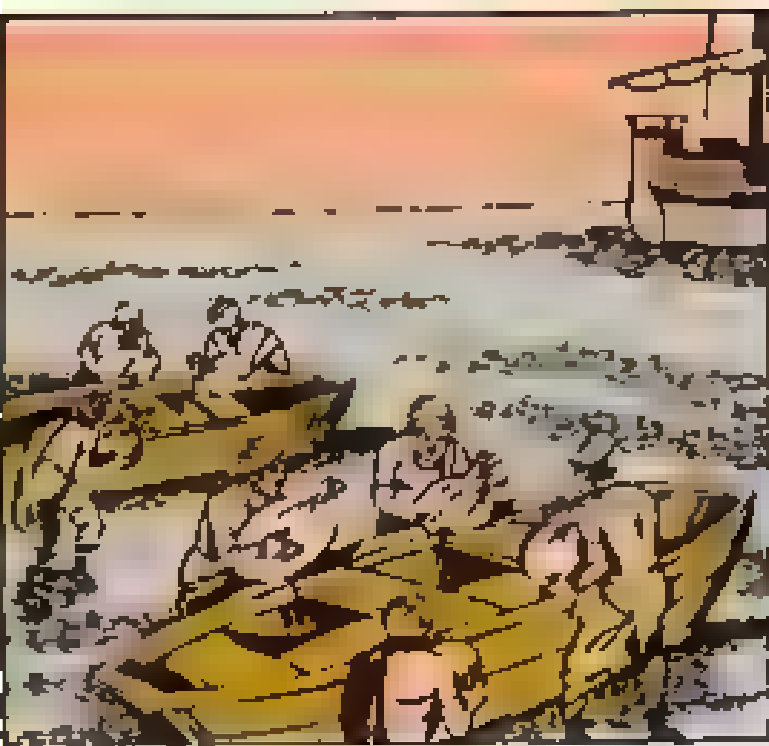
WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE ISLAND
OF JEWELS ~

THAT ISLAND IS A MINE
OF DIAMONDS AND PRECIOUS
STONES. GATHER AS MUCH
AS YOU WANT. LOWER
THE BOATS



WITHOUT WASTING A MOMENT THE MEN SET TO WORK.

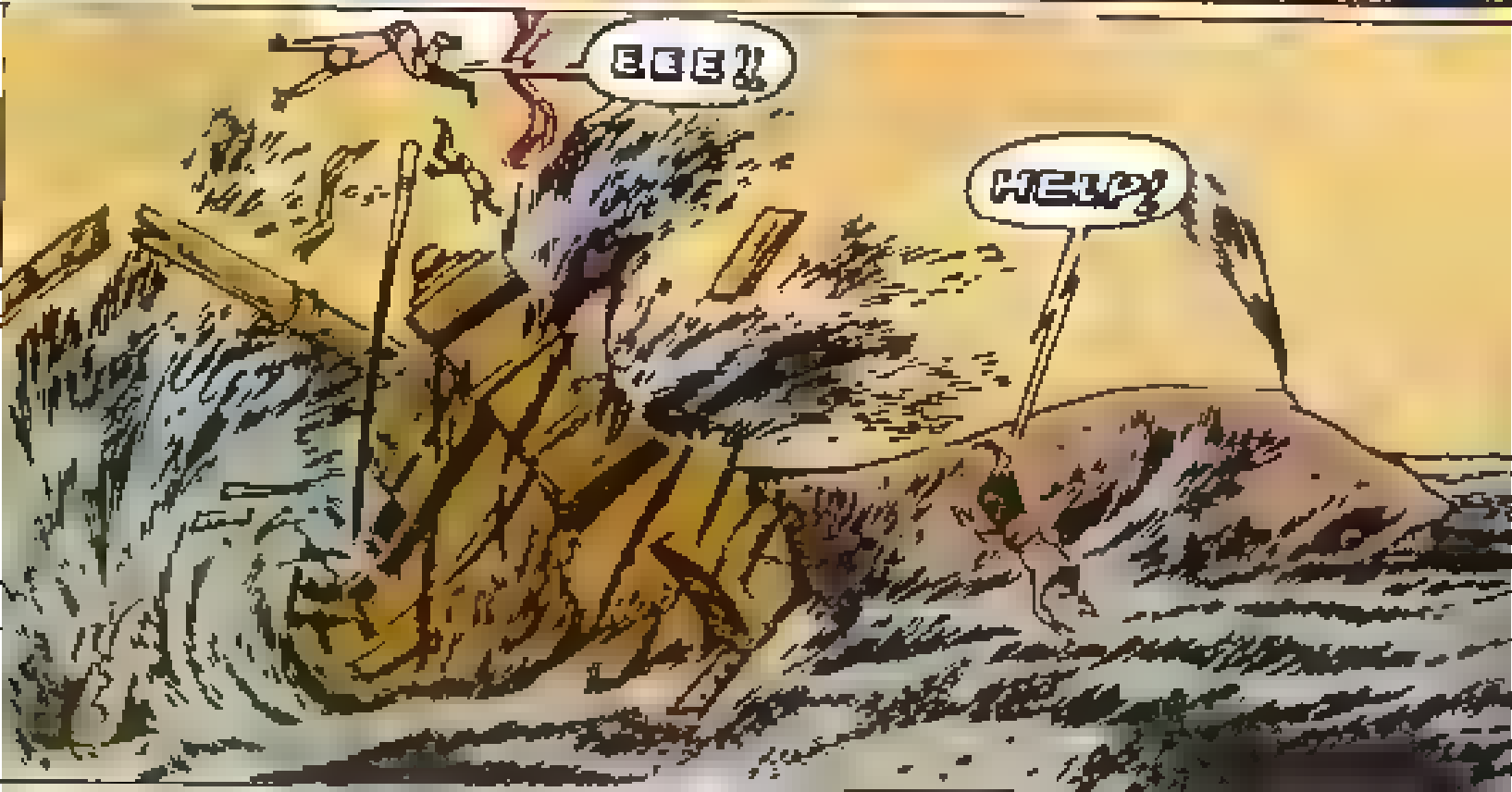
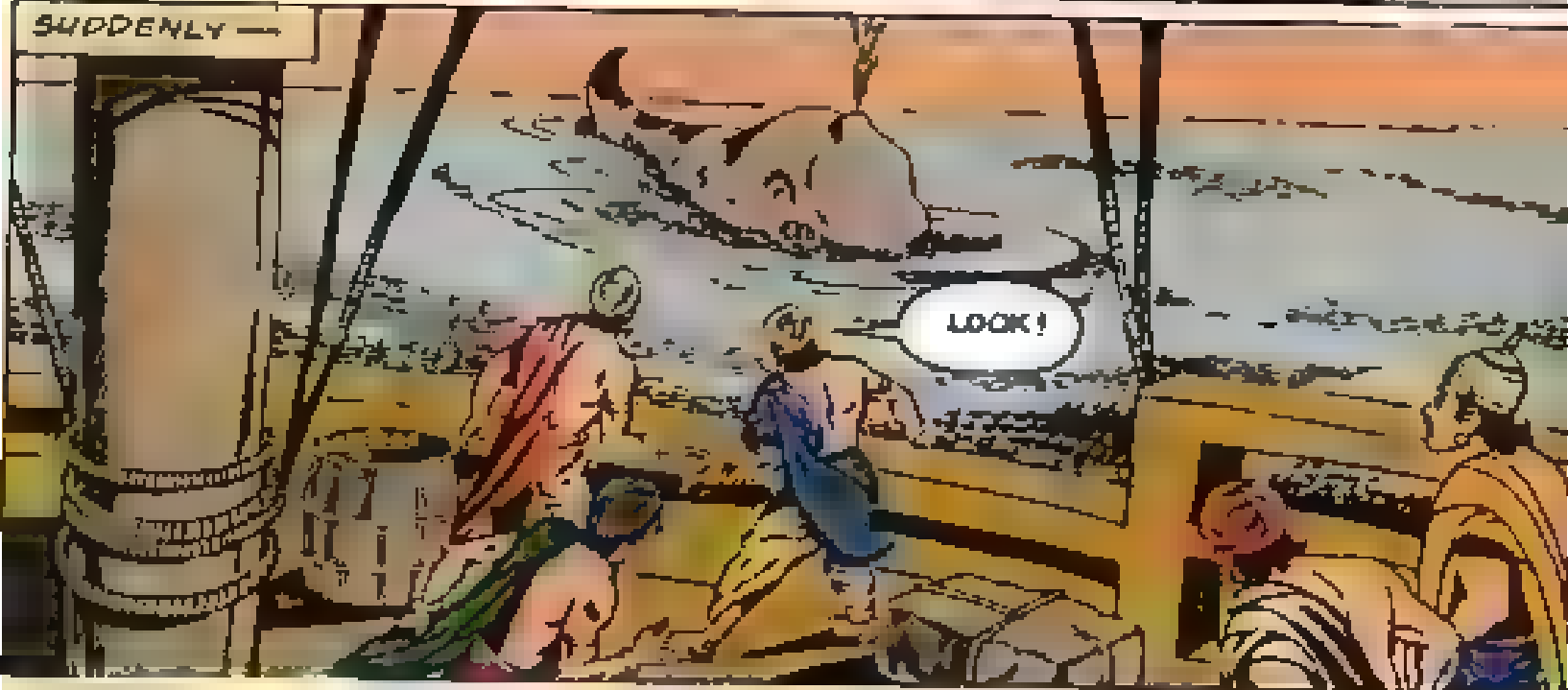


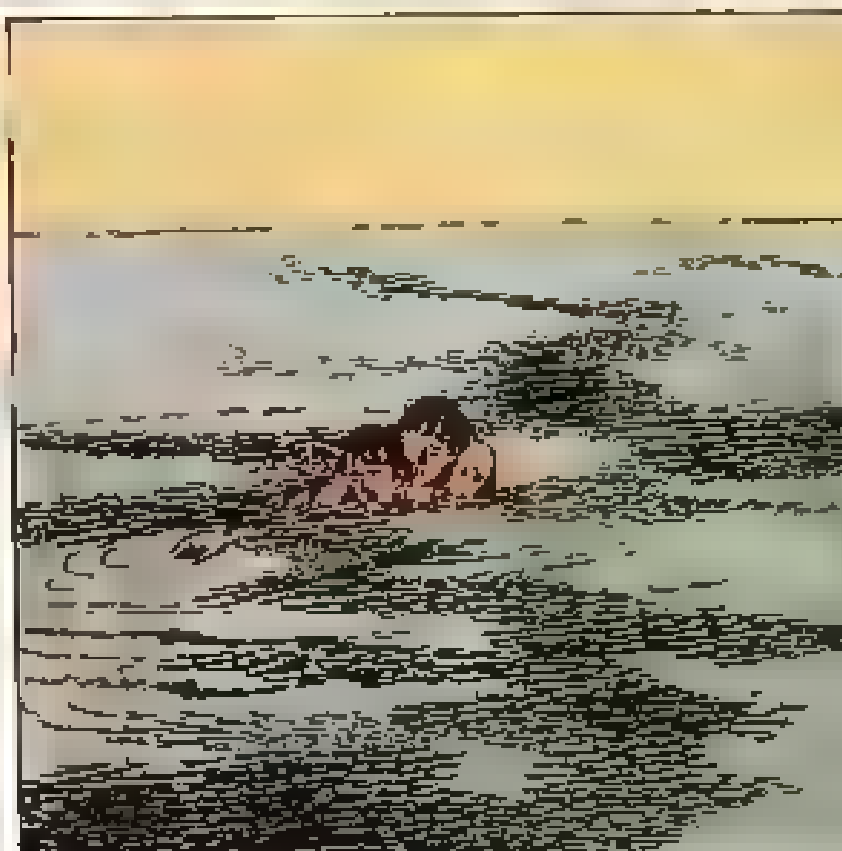
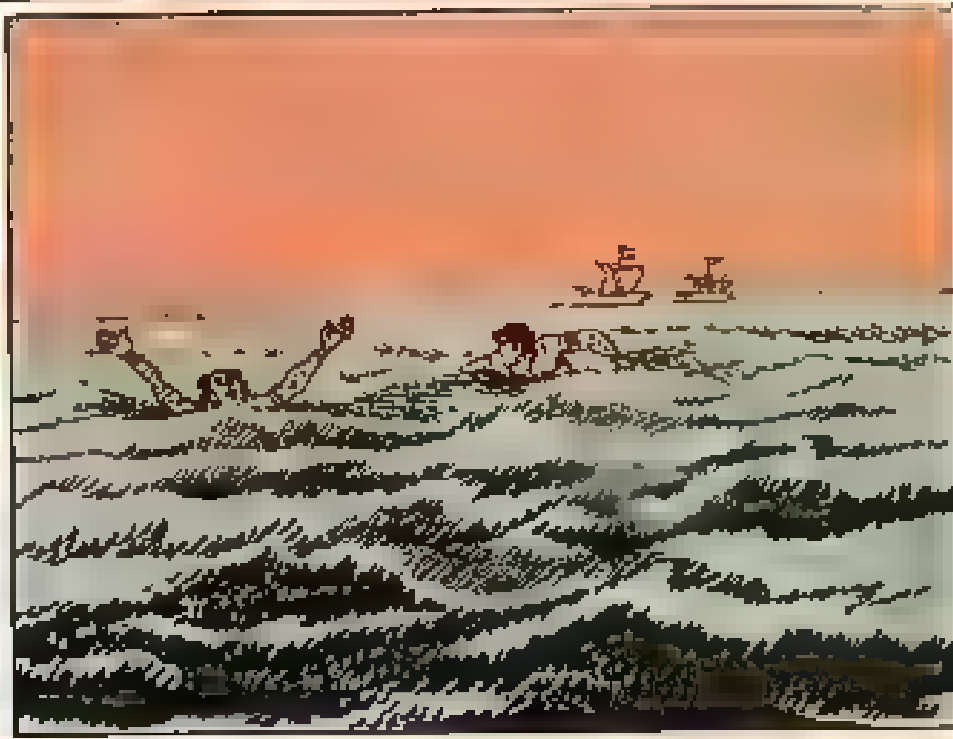
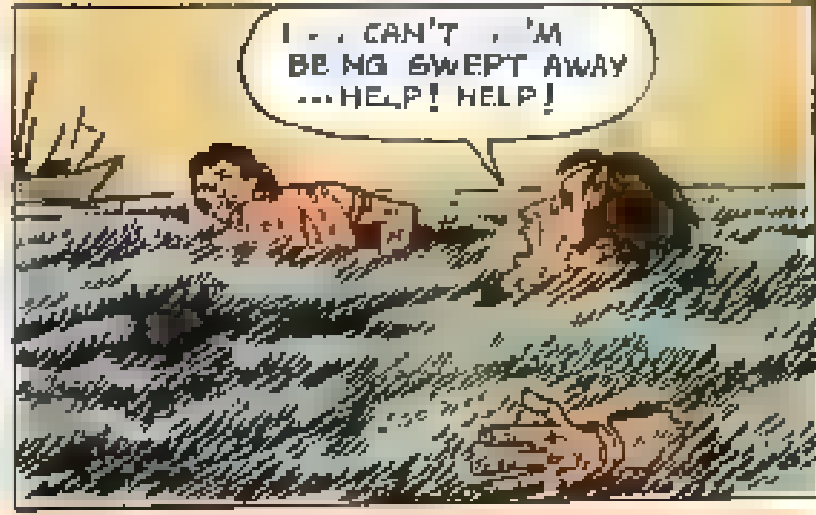
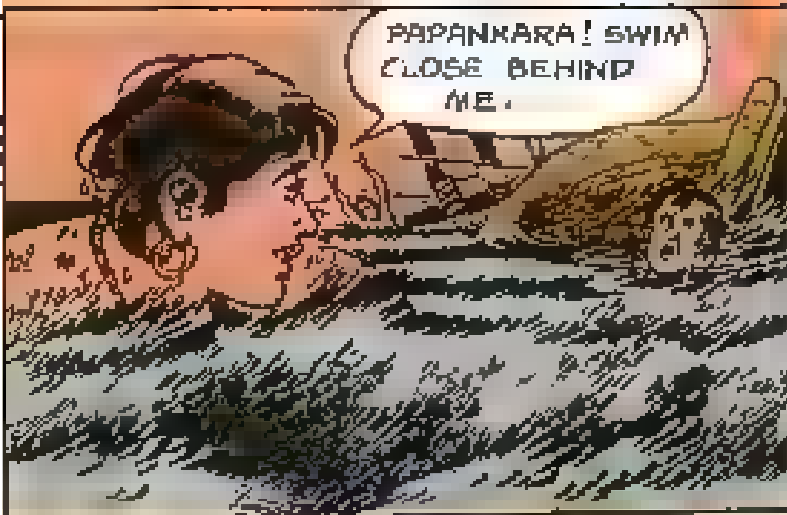


THE RETURN JOURNEY BEGAN.



SUDDENLY —





WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY KSHEMAN-
KARA MANAGED TO REACH THE SHORE



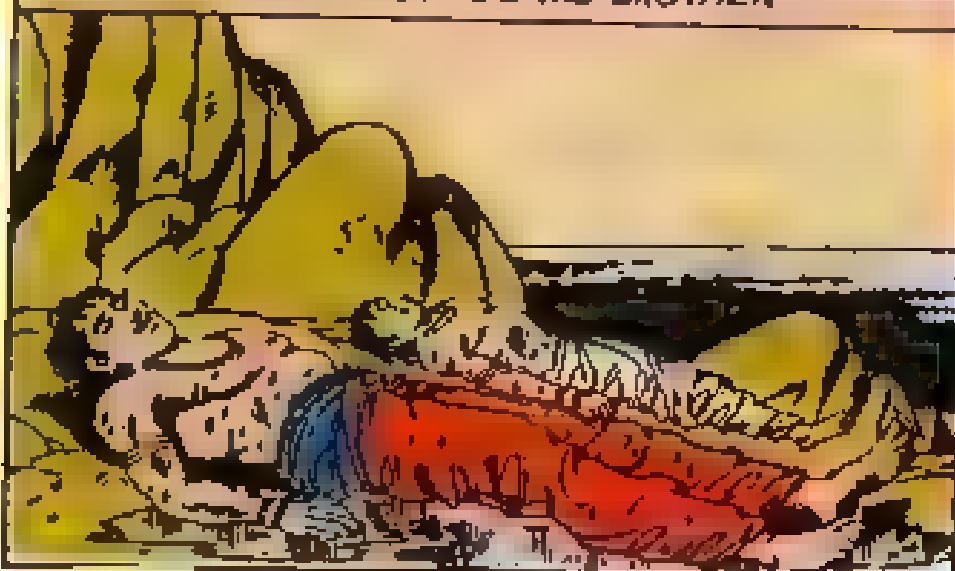
USING HIS LAST QUINCE OF STRENGTH HE DRAGGED
PAPANKARA TOO, ONTO THE SHORE.



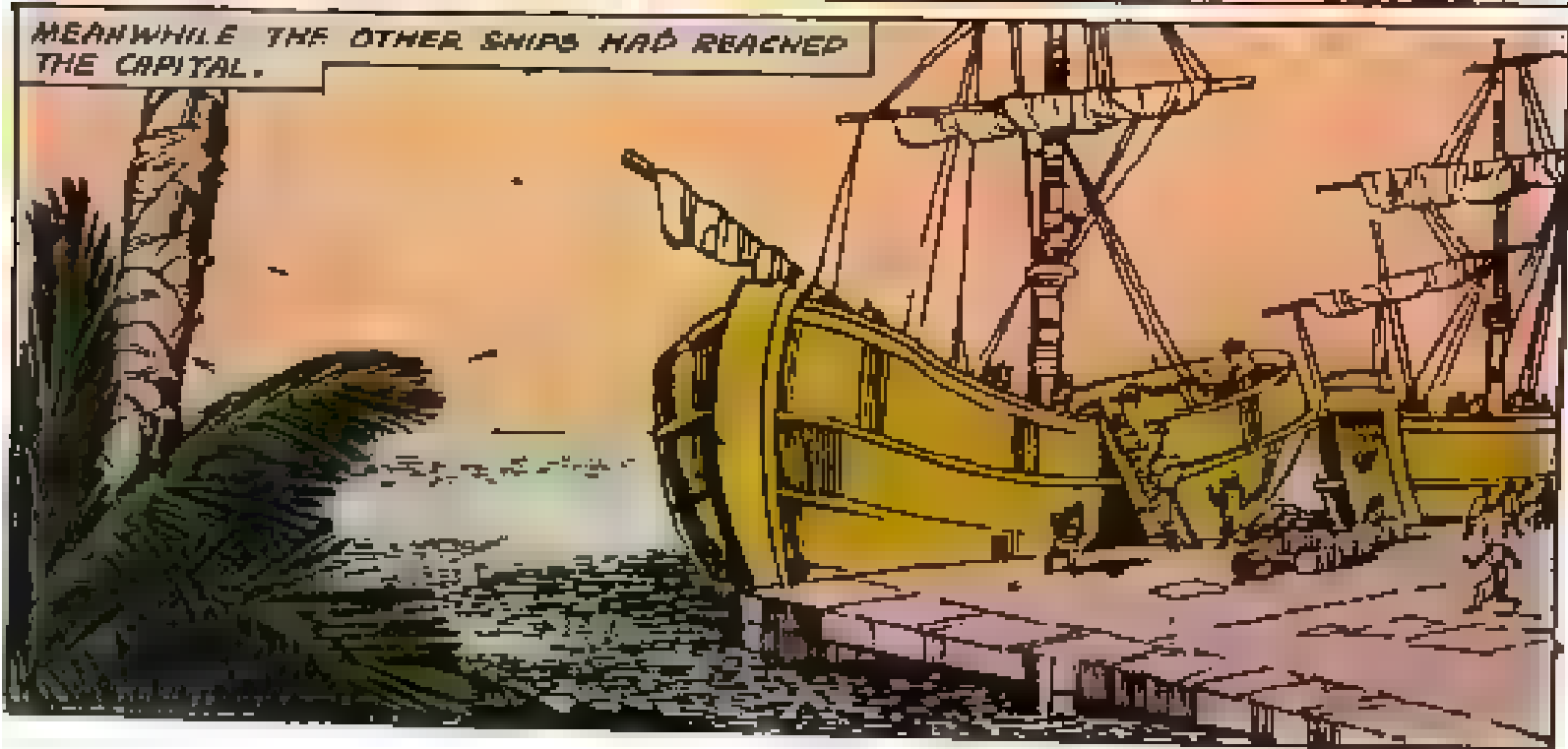
I MADE IT ..
WE'RE SAFE..



AND HE COLLAPSED BESIDE HIS BROTHER



MEANWHILE THE OTHER SHIPS HAD REACHED
THE CAPITAL.



CONTD. ON PAGE 19



Navsa was an eminent artist who lived in the 12th century in Assam. One day he drew a picture and set it up in the market place for exhibition.

At the bottom of the picture he left space in which people were asked to write their criticism of the painting.

In the evening when he went to bring back the picture he was startled to see that it had drawn heavy criticism.

Every part of the picture had been condemned as ugly by someone or the other.

Navsa could not understand it. Was his picture really so ugly?

He decided to put it up for exhibition the next day too.

This time instead of asking for criticism he asked the people to write down what they thought was the most beautiful in the picture.

When he returned for the picture in the evening he was astonished to see that every part of the picture had been praised for its beauty by someone or the other!

Suman Bhattacharjee
Shillong - 793 002.

Do you know of any such rare and delightful regional legend or story? Write it to us. For every accepted anecdote (300-500 words), we will pay you Rs. 50/- Send a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the story to be returned. Mail your story to:

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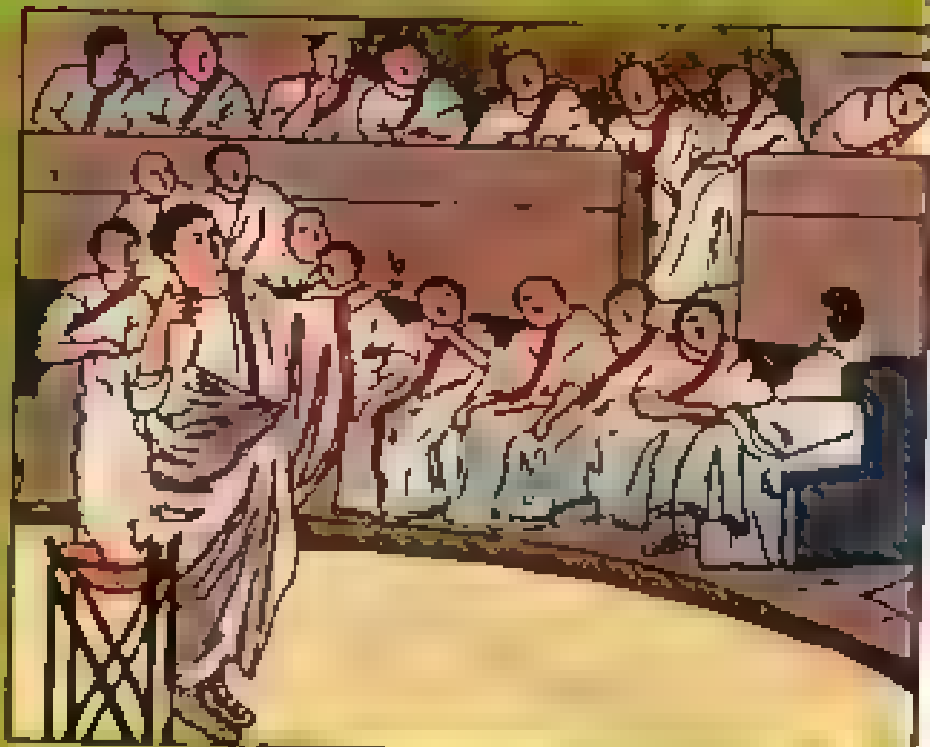
The INDIA you do not know

Script Swarn Khandpur Illustrated by Nee'am Paralkar



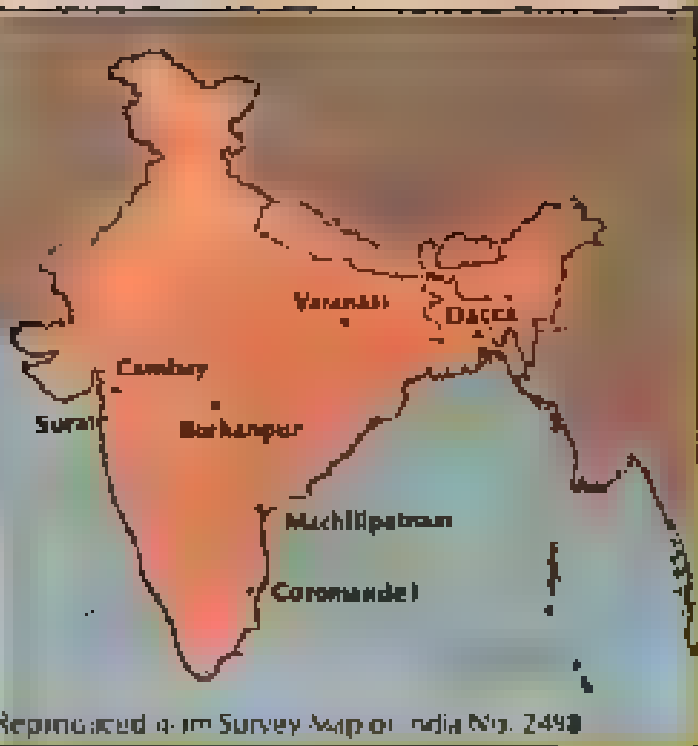
Cotton fabrics were first used in India. The ancient Mesopotamians imported cotton fabrics from Mohenjo-daro. They called cotton 'Sindhu' after the country of its origin. Archaeologists have found spindle whorls in the Indus Valley (3000 B.C.). They even found pieces of cotton attached to a silver vase.

The Greeks and Romans spoke highly of the textile industry of India. This is evident from the works of Pliny, the Roman author and administrator, (A.D. 61-113). Pliny's complaint that Roman gold was being drained into India to buy luxury goods which included textiles, was taken up in the Roman Senate.



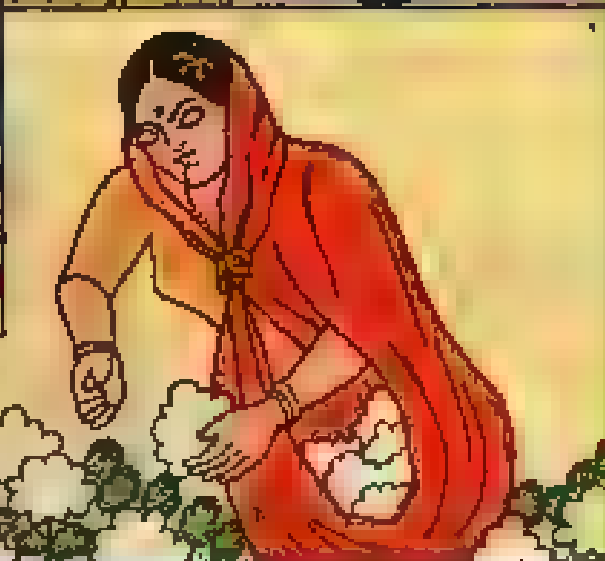
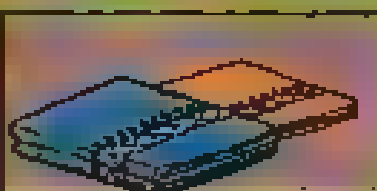
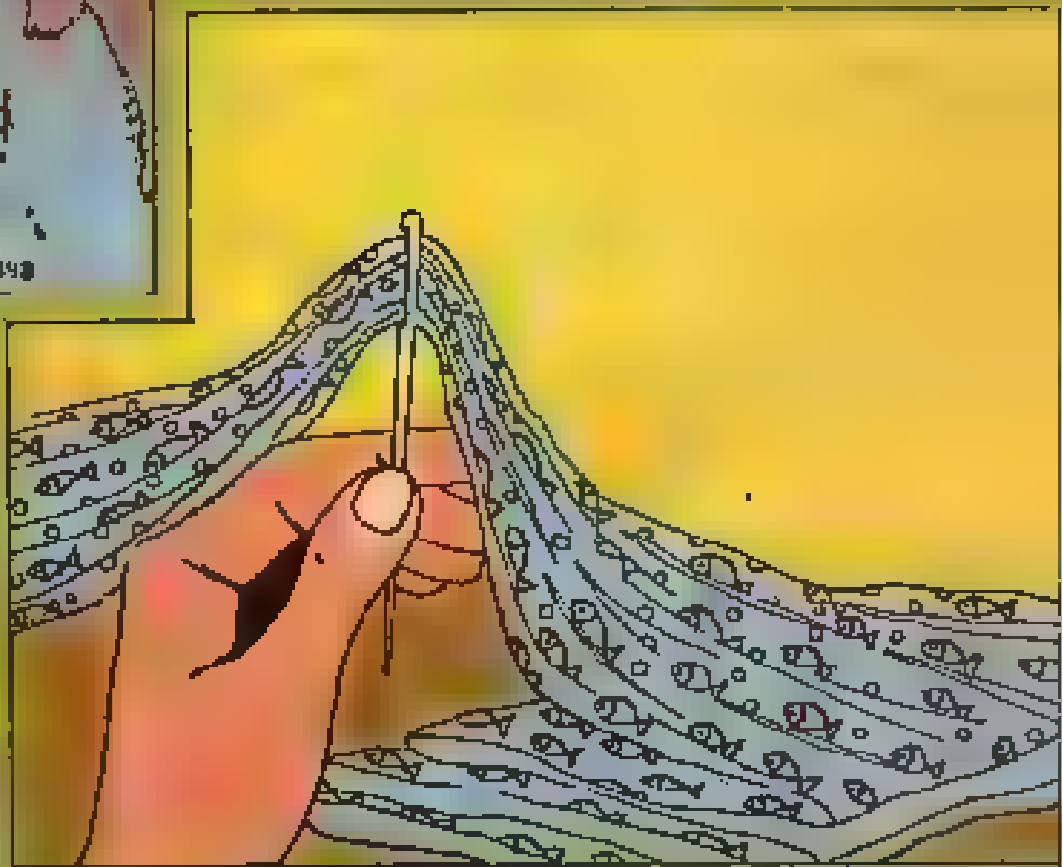
No wonder manufacture of cotton fabrics was a closely-guarded secret. Kautilya, the author of Artha Shashtra, prescribes severe penalty for stealing yarn and for giving away information about the royal textile factories.





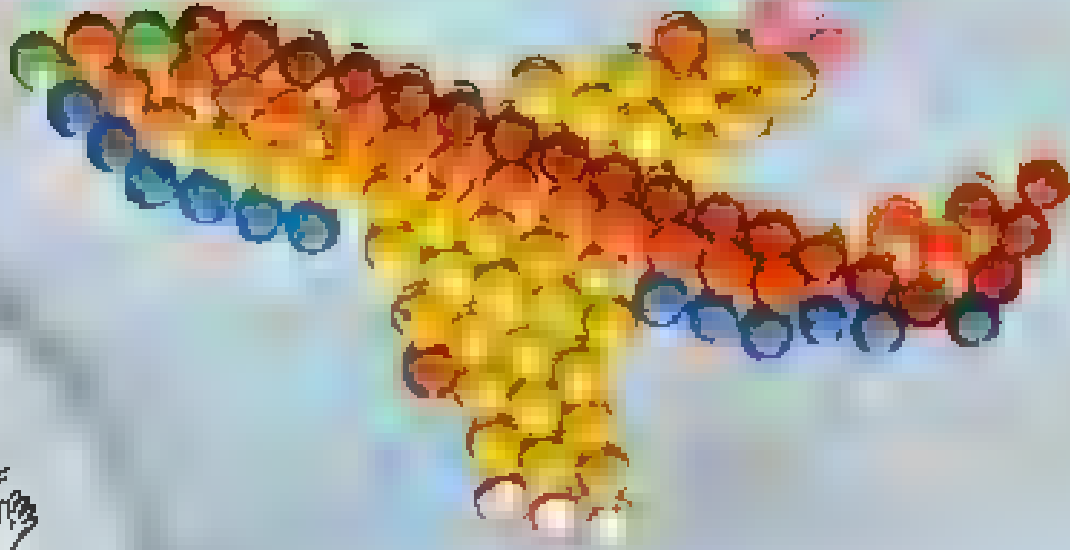
Before the arrival of the Mughals, the textile industry was centred at Surat, Cambay and Burhanpur in the West, Dacca and Varanasi in the East, and the Coromandel coast and Machilipatnam in the South.

Indian muslin was famous all over the world. "A hundred yards of Daulatabad muslin," says poet Amir Khusrau, "could pass through the eye of a needle, so fine was its texture."



Today, India has the largest area in the world under cotton cultivation. This represents one fourth of the total world area. Plain muslins, dona or striped muslin and checked muslin are manufactured at a number of places.

*"I'll make my airplane fly
High, high up in the sky
I'll get some Gems, just for fun
For me, for you, for everyone!"*

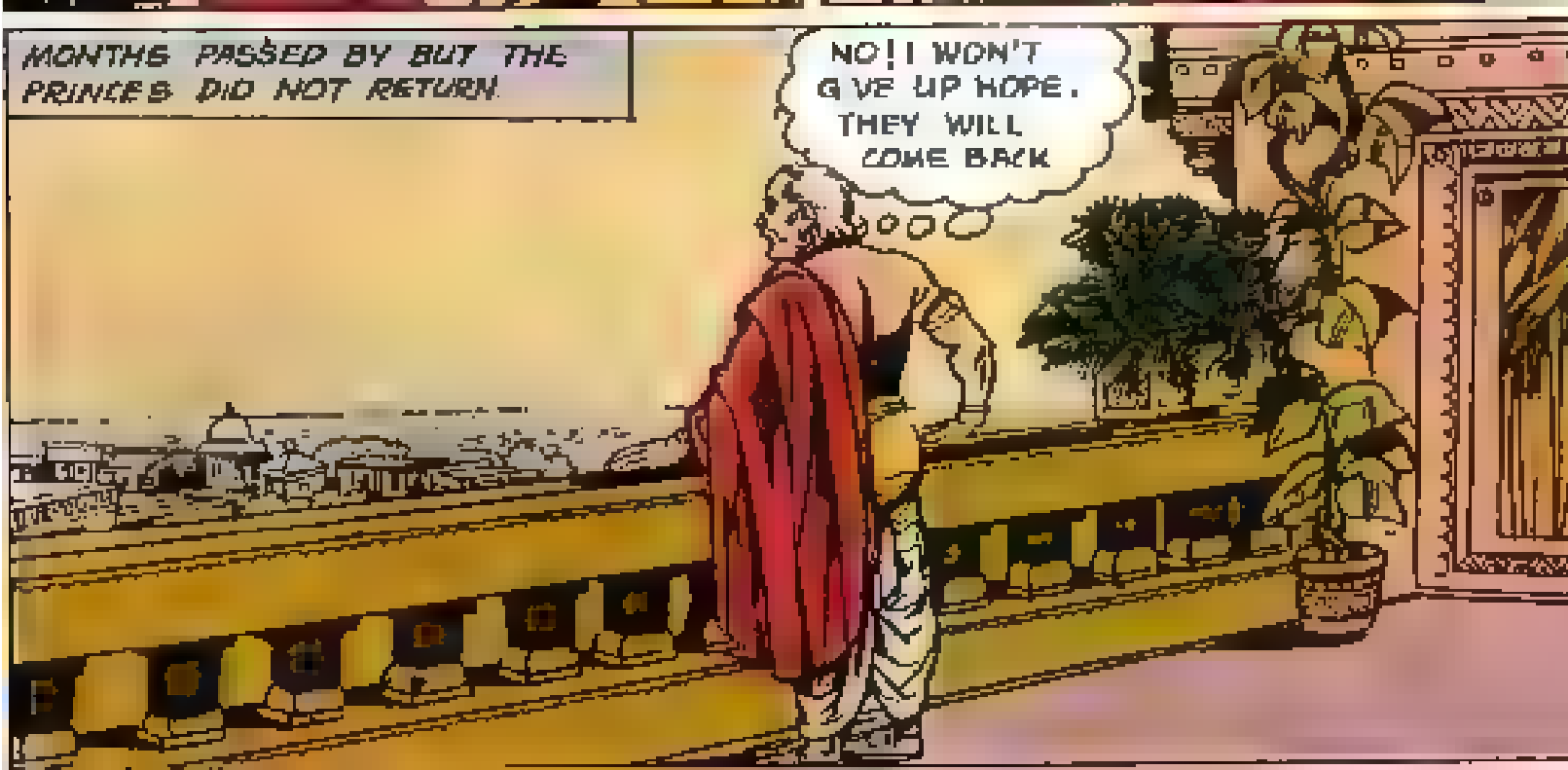
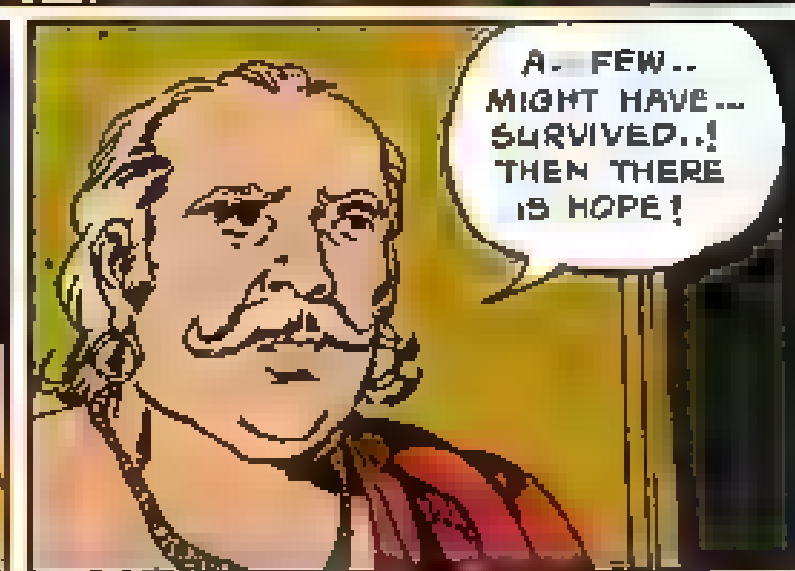
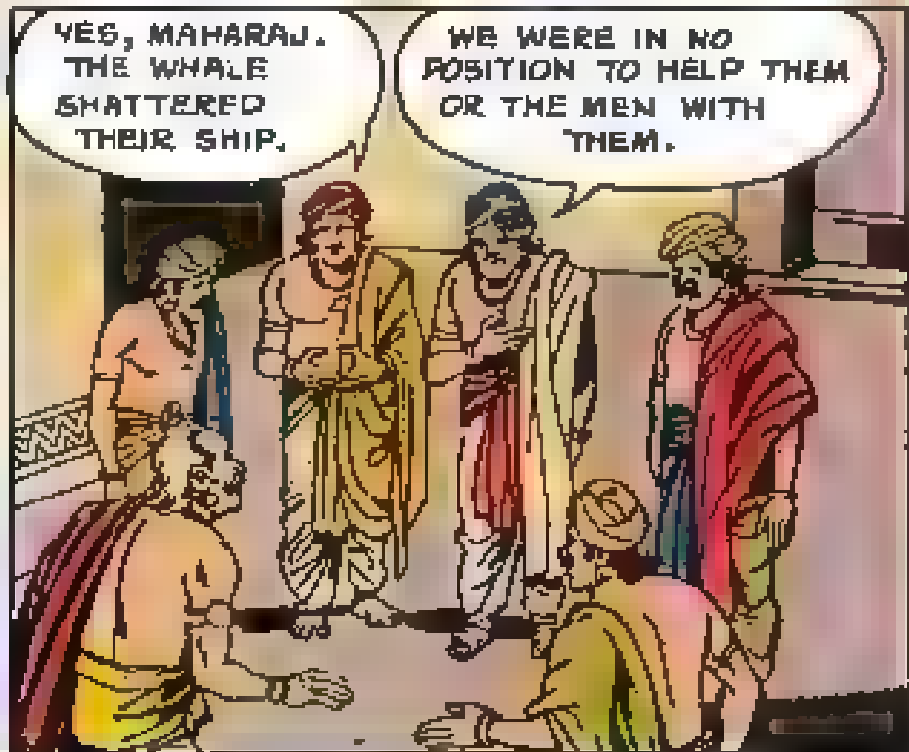
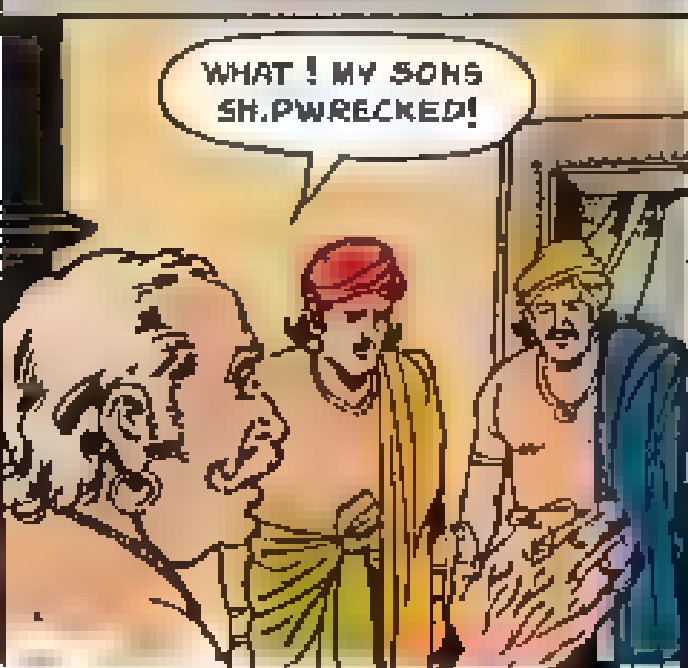


Got a moment? Get a Gem!

Cadbury's
Chocolates

Anything's possible with Cadbury's Gems!

THE LUCKY ONES WHO SURVIVED MET THE KING AND GAVE HIM THE BAD NEWS.



THE KING FELL ILL AND WAS ON HIS DEATH-
BED YET HE KEPT HOPING.

HAVE - MY
SONG -
COME
BACK - ?

NO,
MAHARAJ -
NOT YET.

THEN ONE DAY -

MAHARAJ... PRINCE
PAPANKARA HAS -
COME !

WHAT!

THE KING SAT UP

FATHER!

PAPANKARA!
WHERE IS
KSHEMA?

I'M SORRY,
FATHER HE WILL
NEVER SEE US
AGAIN

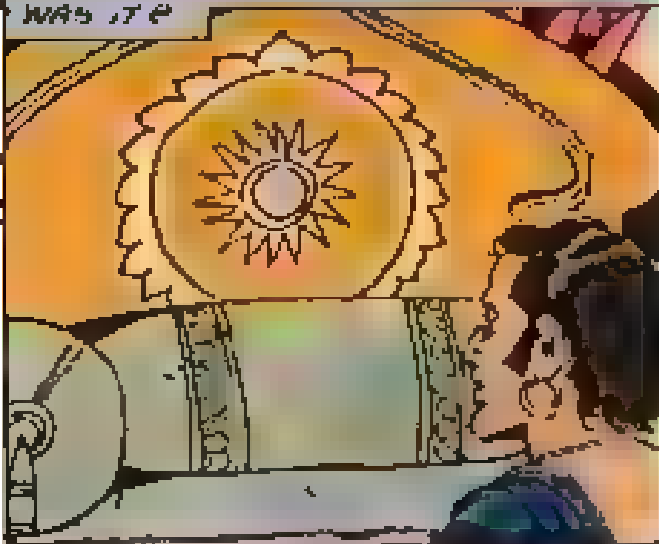
THAT NIGHT THE KING BREATHED HIS LAST.

PAPANKARA SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER
AS KING. AS HE WALKED UP TO
THE THRONE -

...HE PAUSED.

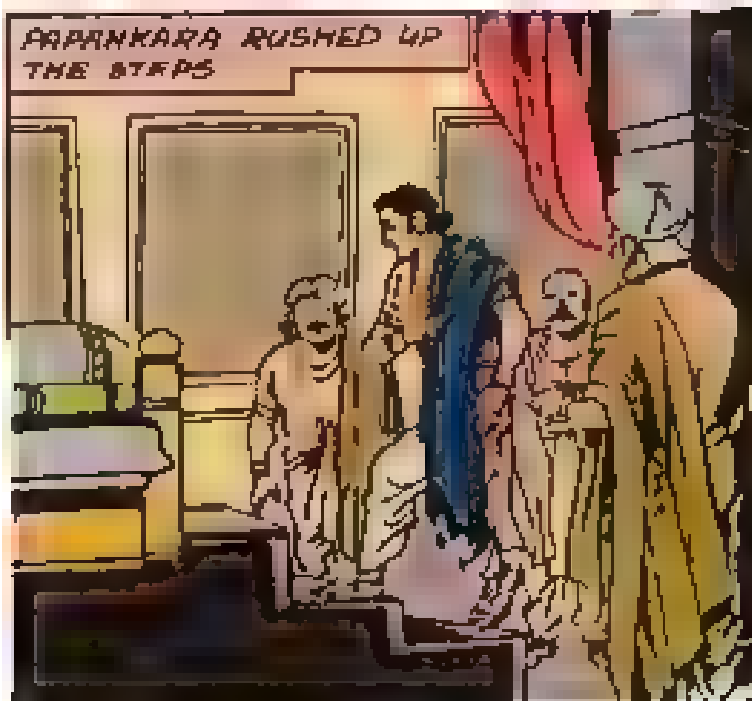
WHY DO YOU HESITATE?
PLEASE SIT ON THE
THRONE, MAHARAJ.
IT'S YOURS

BUT PAPANKARA STOOD ROOTED TO THE GROUND. SOMETHING SEEMED TO BE HOLDING HIM BACK. WHAT WAS IT?

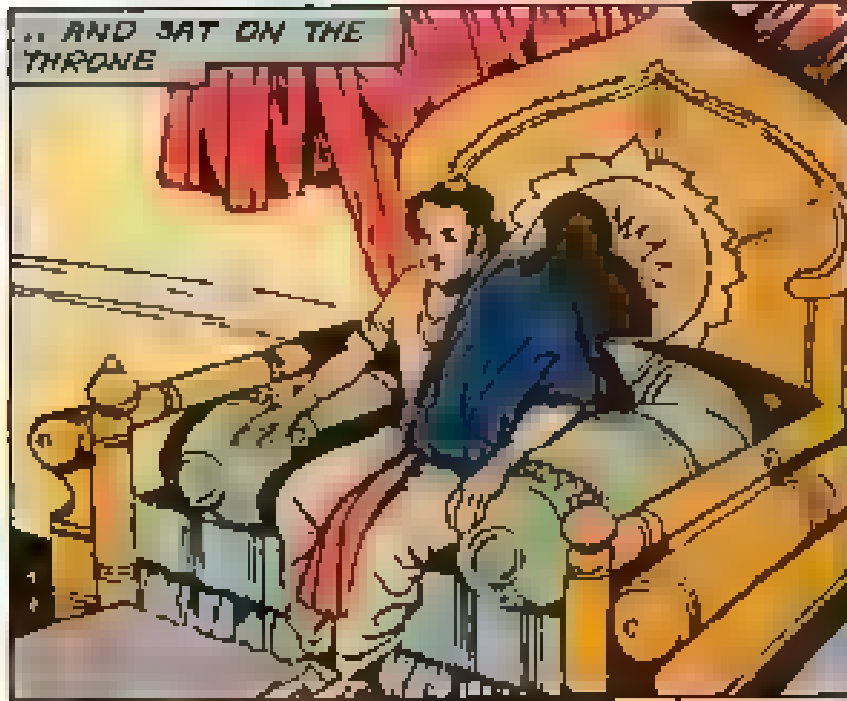


MAHAKARMA MAHAKARMA!
THE AUSPICIOUS HOUR
IS ALMOST UP.

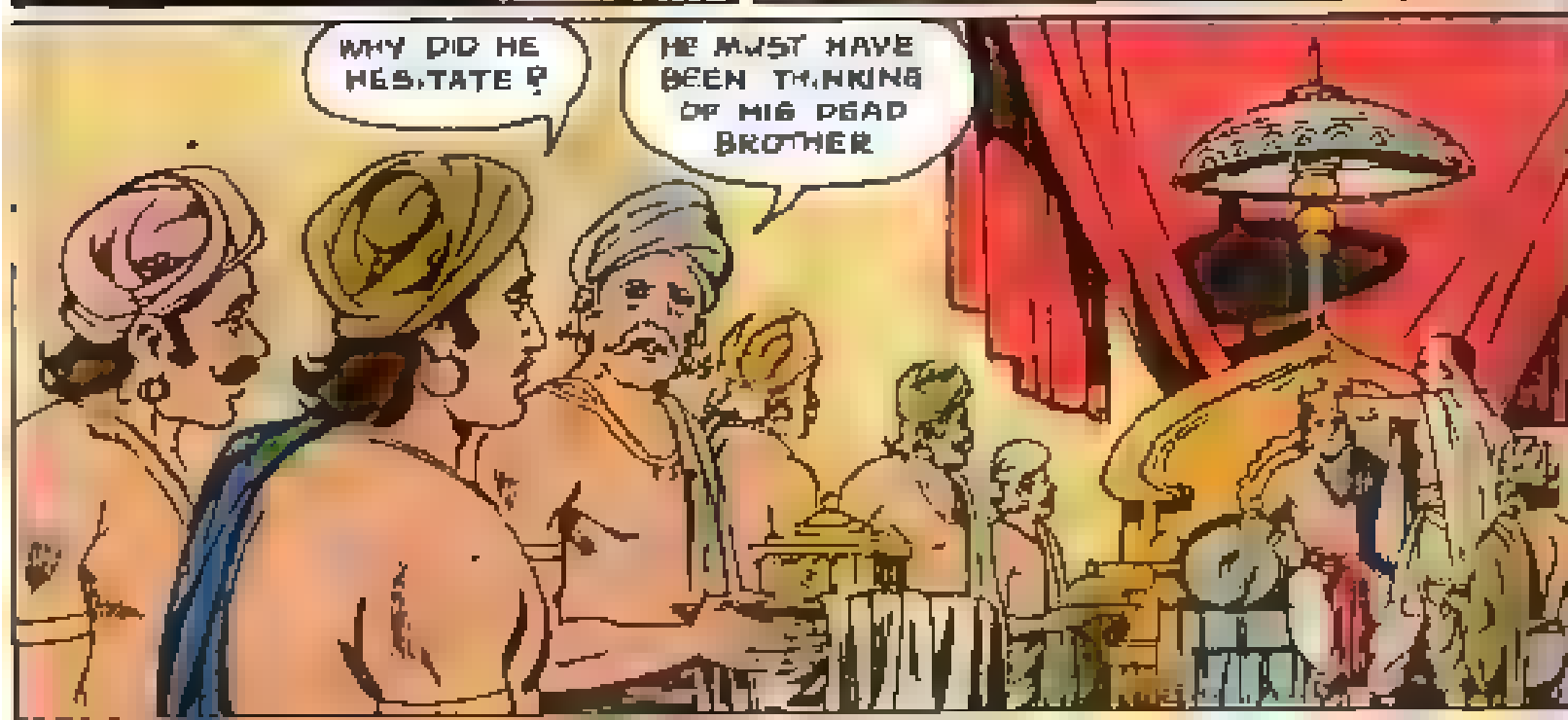
EH? I'M
SORRY



PAPANKARA RUSHED UP
THE STEPS



.. AND SAT ON THE
THRONE



WHY DID HE
HESITATE?

HE MUST HAVE
BEEN THINKING
OF HIS DEAD
BROTHER

MEANWHILE —

MY CHILD, IT IS NOW CERTAIN THAT KHEMANKARA WILL NOT COME BACK.

FATHER, ALIVE OR DEAD, KHEMANKARA ALONE WILL BE MY HUSBAND.

I KNOW WHAT YOU FEEL, BUT CUSTOM REQUIRES A GIRL TO GET MARRIED.

PLEASE THINK IT OVER, MY CHILD.

A FEW MONTHS LATER —

CHILD, MANY A KING HAS ASKED FOR YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE...

FATHER! DO YOU STILL INSIST THAT I MARRY?

Y... E S YOU HAVE TO.

THEN PERMIT ME TO CHOOSE THE MAN.

THE KING HELD A SWAYAMVARA WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR.



AS THE PRINCESS STEPPED OUT



...THE FAINT NOTES OF A FLUTE CAUGHT HER ATTENTION



SHE STOPPED, LISTENED.



AND BEGAN WALKING AGAIN —
TOWARDS THE SOUND





PRINCESS,



PRINCESS...!

IGNORING THEM SHE WALKED ON TILL -



SHE GARLANDED THE BLIND MUSICIAN.
SHE HAD CHOSEN HER HUSBAND.



OH!

HER COMPANIONS RAN TO
THE PALACE

MAHARAJ, THE
PRINCESS HAS
CHOSEN A
A BLIND MAN



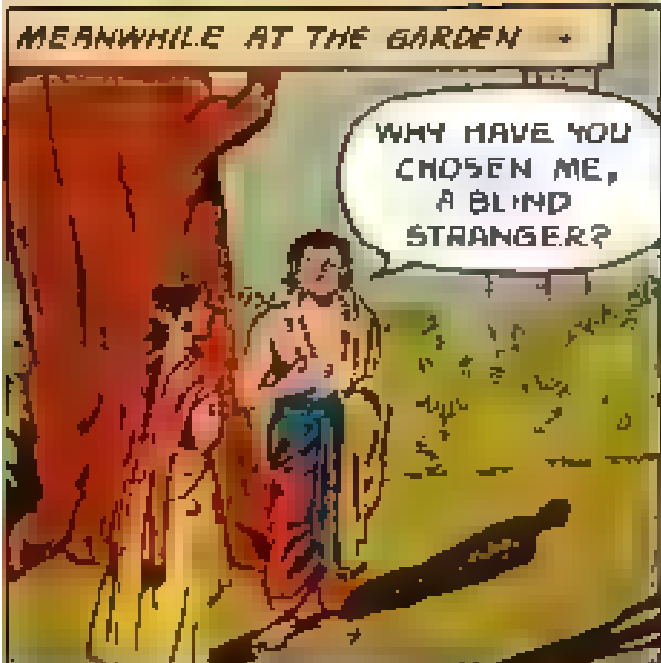
OUR PRINCESS
CANNOT . MUST NOT
MARRY A BLIND
MAN! PLEASE
STOP HER,
MAHARAJ.



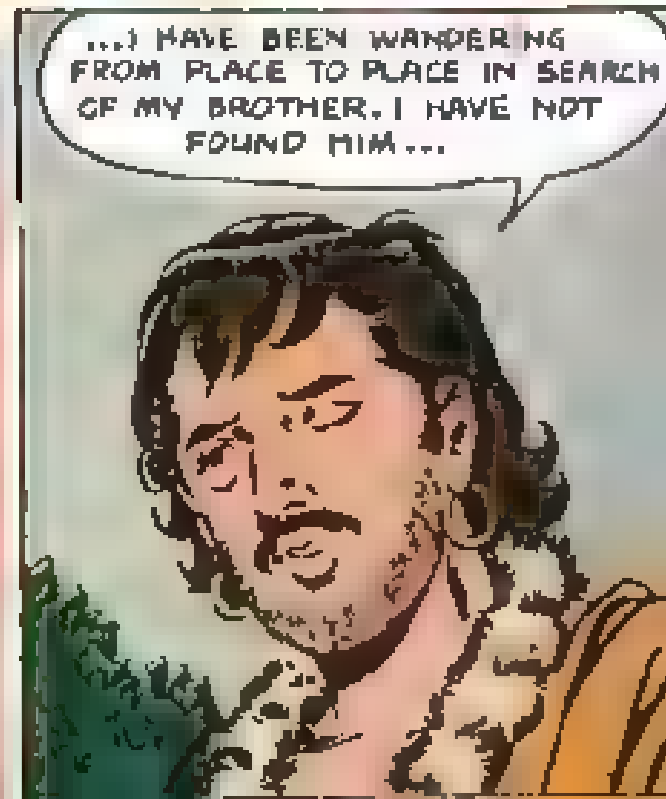
SHE WILL MARRY
THE MAN SHE
CHOOSES

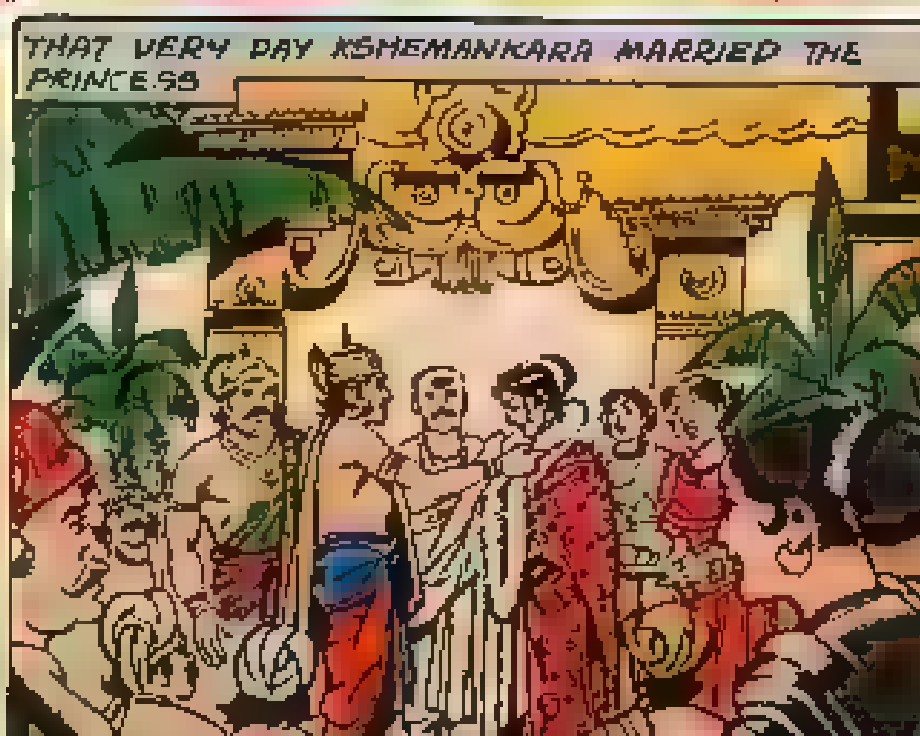
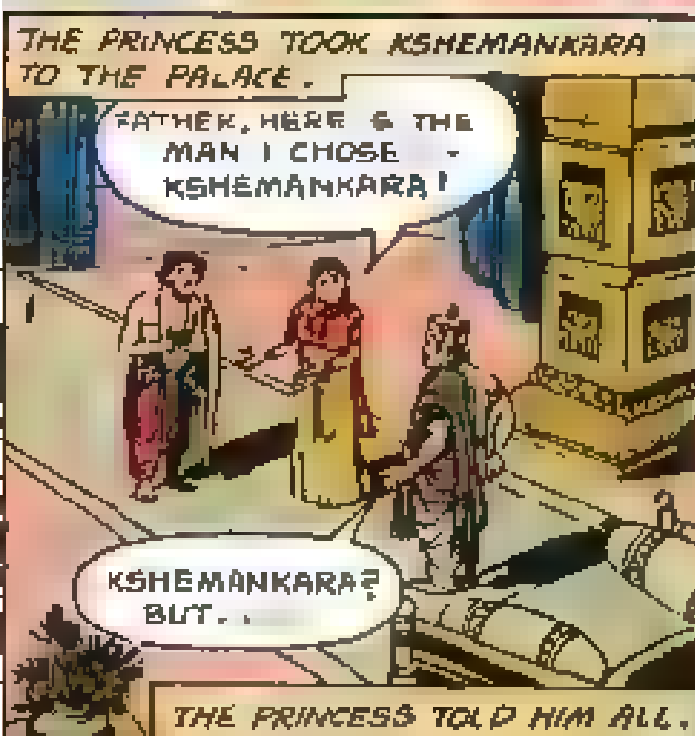
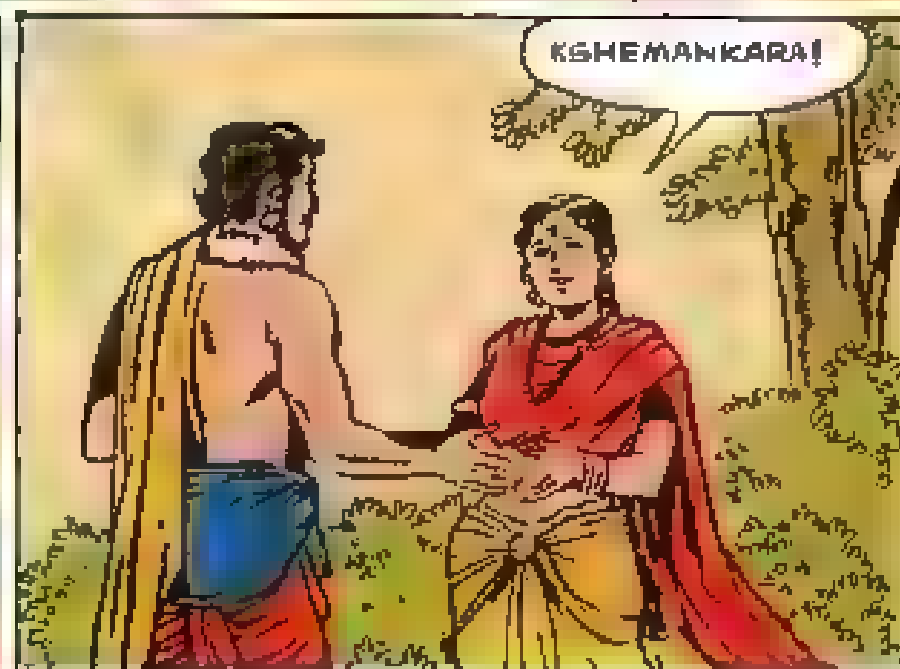
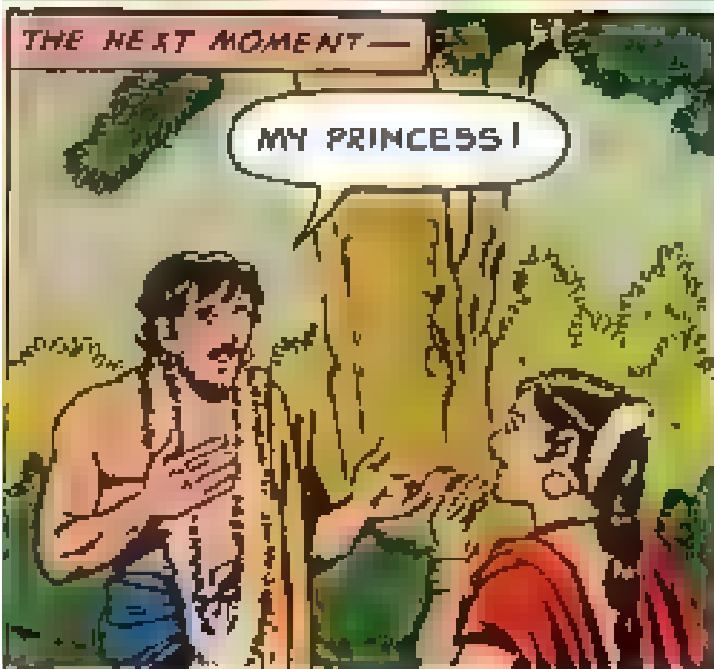
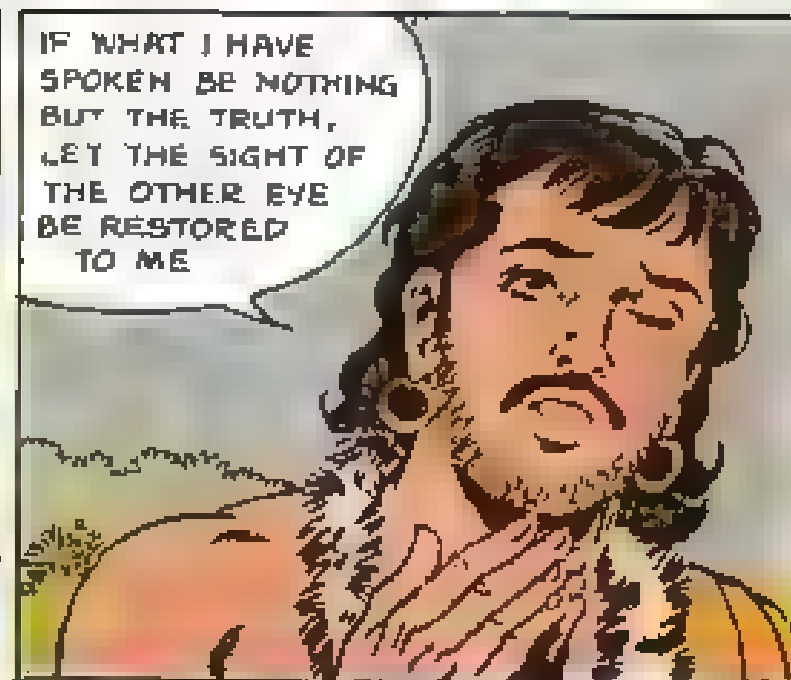


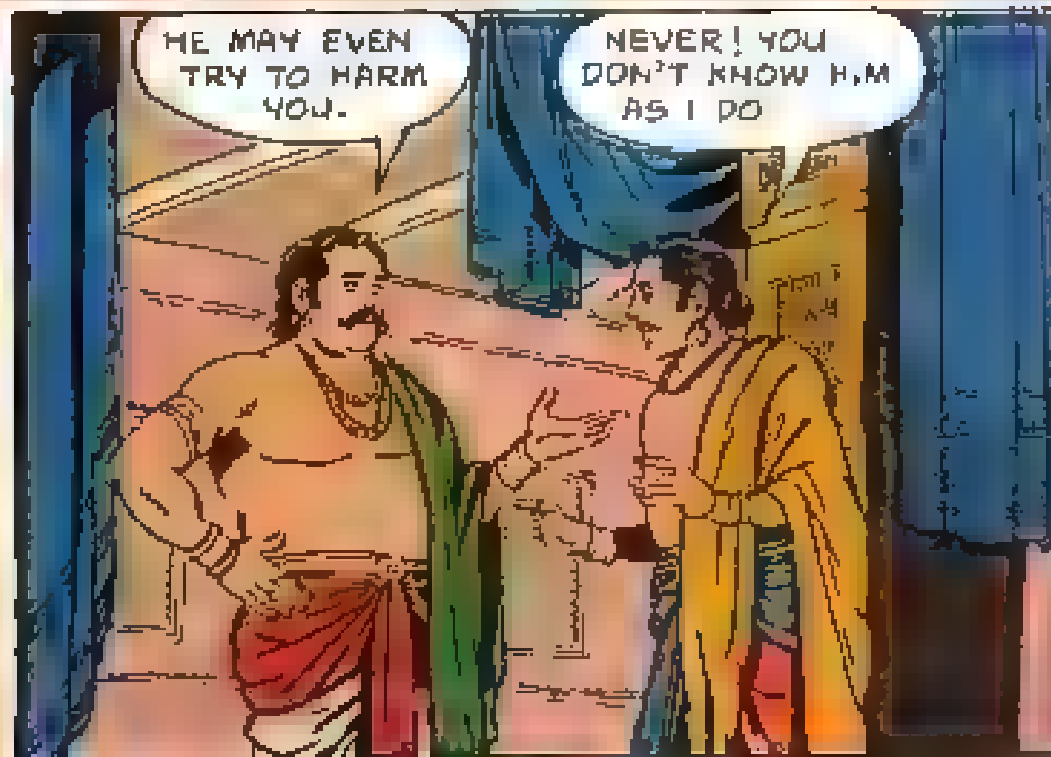
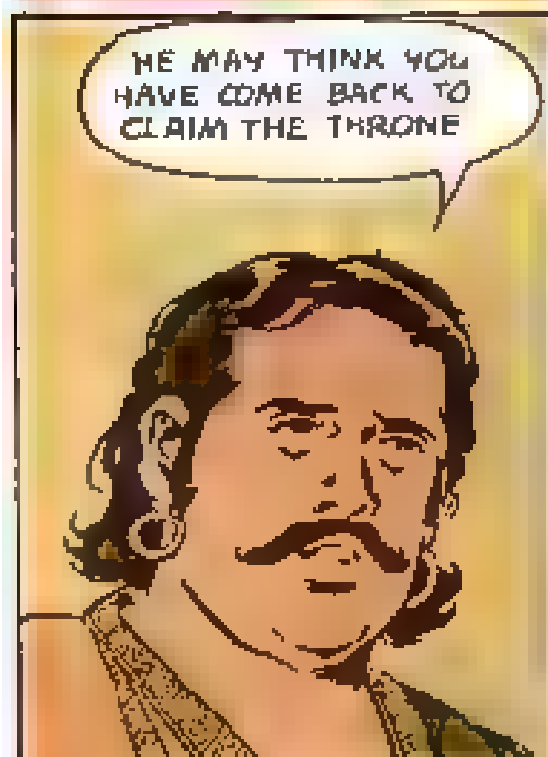
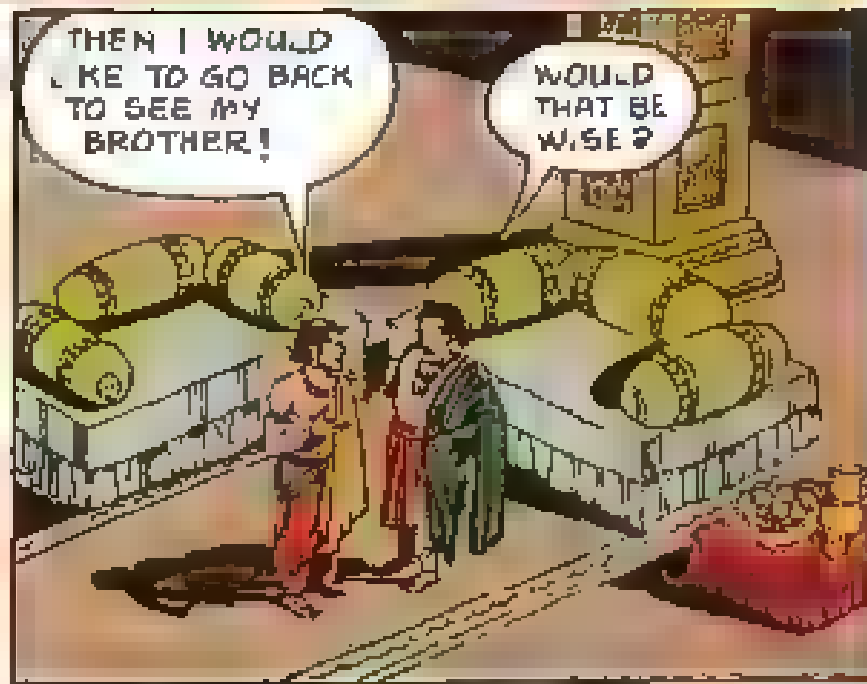
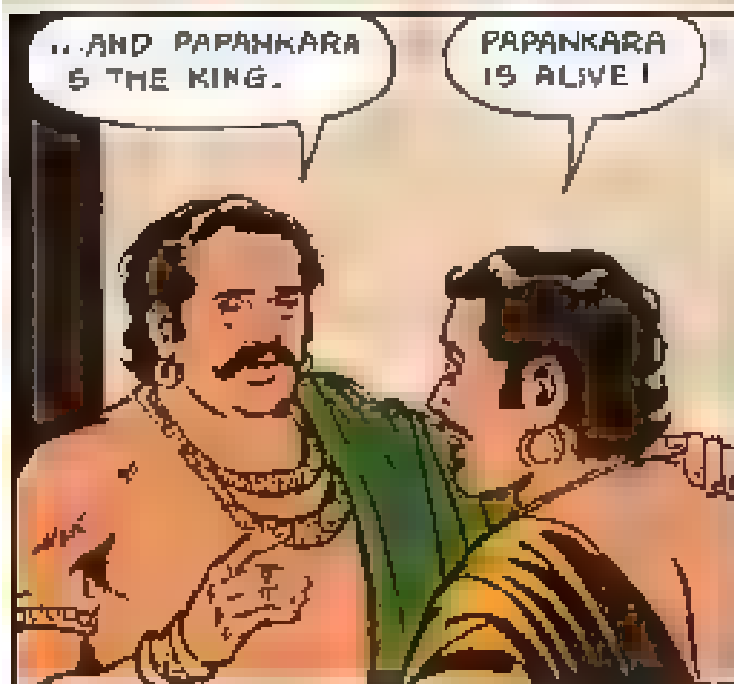
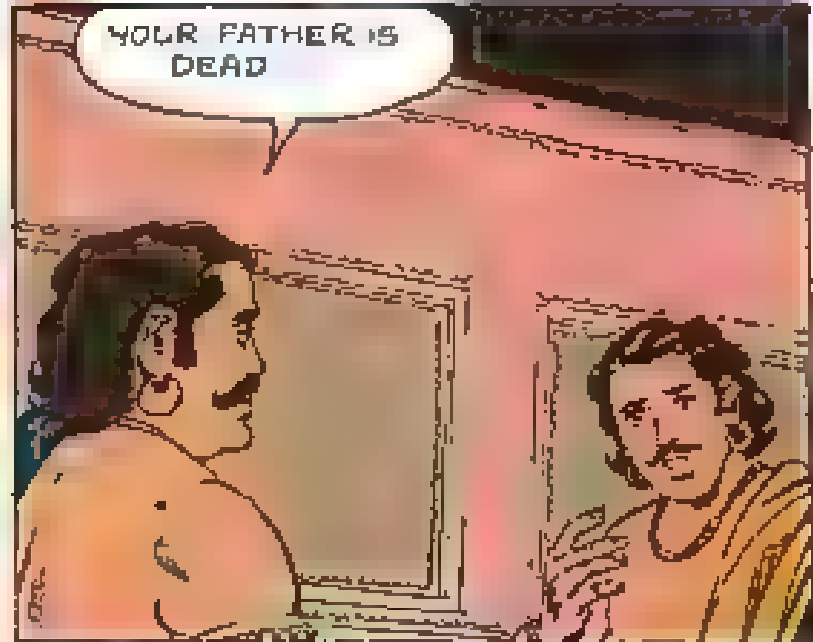
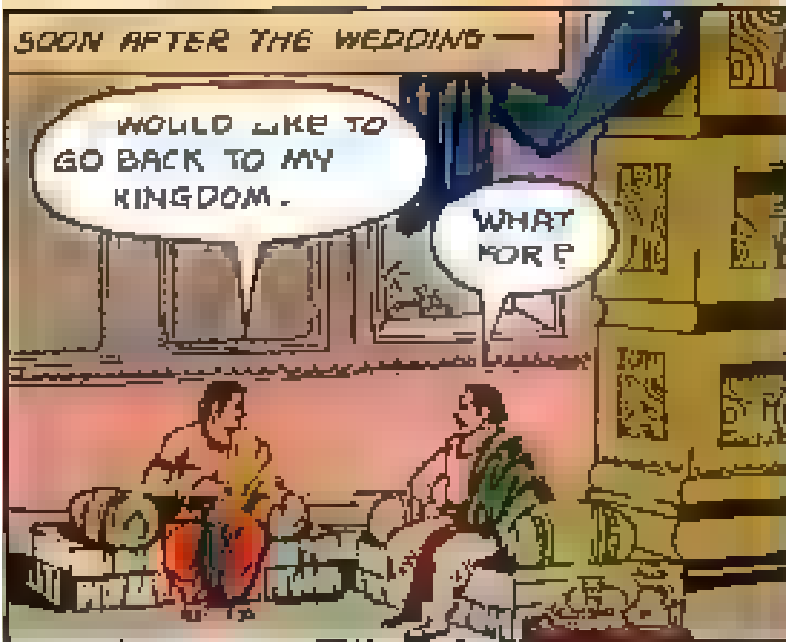
MEANWHILE AT THE GARDEN











MEANWHILE AT APPANKARA'S PALACE

WHAT! KSEMANKARA ALIVE?

YES, MAHARAJ. HE IS ON HIS WAY HOME.

YES, MAHARAJ.
HE'S ON HIS
WAY HOME.

HE SHOULD BE
HERE IN A DAY
OR TWO.

PADANKARA WAS NOT LISTENING HE WAS LOST IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS

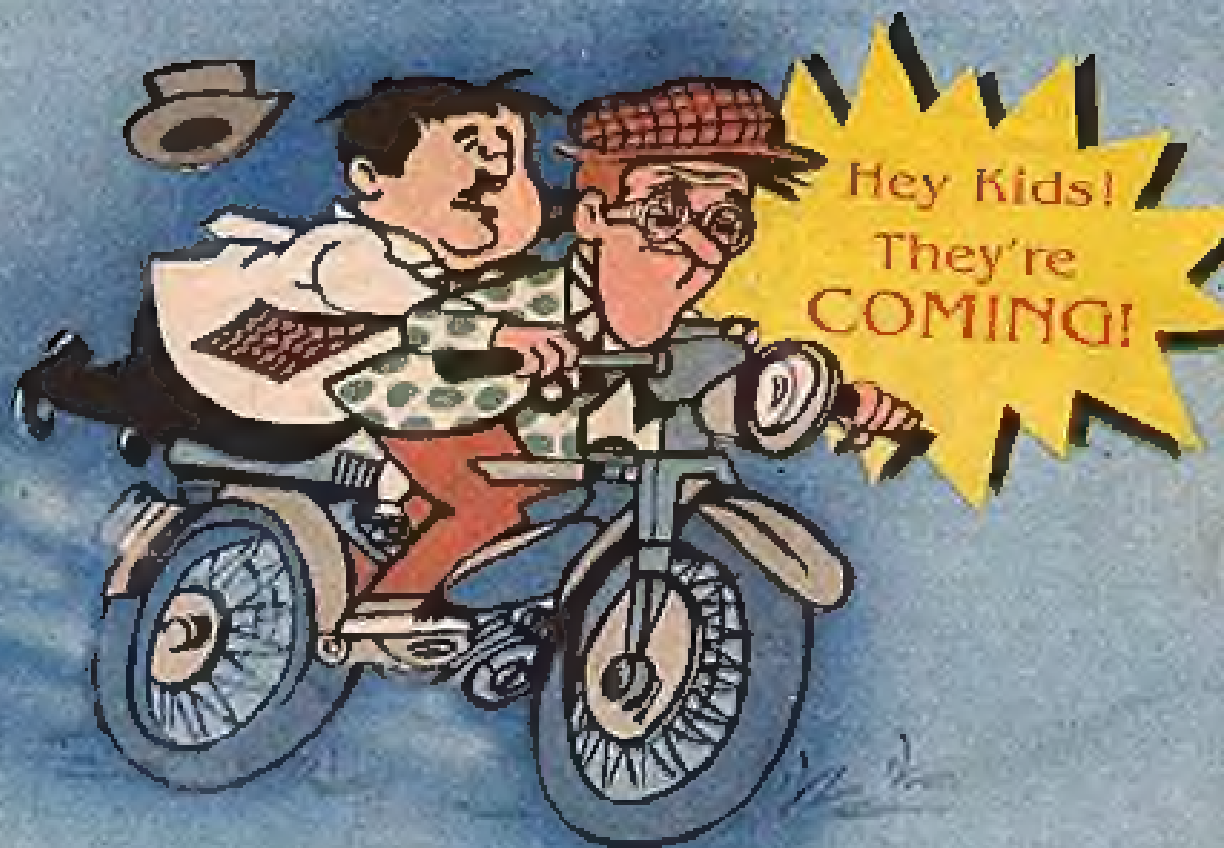
A comic panel featuring a man with dark, curly hair and a black collar, looking distressed. He is surrounded by three thought bubbles. The top-left bubble shows a man in a red dhoti being held back by another man. The top-right bubble shows a man in a red dhoti lying on the ground, being attended to by another man. The bottom bubble shows a man in a red dhoti being held back by another man. The background is a solid light blue.

WHY DID I BLIND
HIM? WHY DID I
LEAVE HIM TO DIE?
WHY?

SHALL WE DECORATE THE CITY TO RECEIVE THE PRINCE?

YES.. PLEASE MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS





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will soon release
a New Comic Series of



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RAM AND SHYAM IN
SILVER STRIPES

RECESS IS TIME TO HAVE FUN,
NOT A TUMMY ACHES,



PARLE POPPINS. WATCH FOR THE SILVER STRIPES BEFORE YOU POP 'EM IN.
NOW THE IMITATORS CAN'T FOOL YOU.